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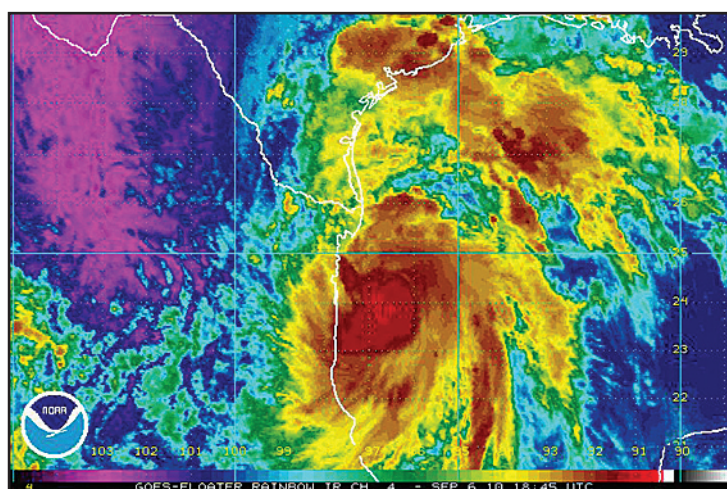
Tuesday, September 7, 2010

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Hermine prompts hurricane watches in Mexico, Texas



MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - Newly formed tropical storm Hermine pushed north in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday, strengthening as it headed towards the US-Mexico border area, and threatening storm surges and even mudslides, forecasters said.

Hermine, the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, was packing sustained winds of 85 kilometers (50 miles) per hour at 1500 GMT after picking up strength dur-

ing the day, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

The Mexican government issued a hurricane watch from Rio San Fernando to the mouth of the Rio Grande, which is on the US border. The watch extends as far north as Baffin Bay, Texas, the hurricane center said.

Although Hermine's top winds were below hurricane strength, the Miami-based center said the storm "could approach hurricane strength prior

to landfall." Tropical storm warnings were in effect on both sides of the border.

Forecasters said the system would dump between four to eight inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain on northeastern Mexico and south Texas, with up to 12 inches possible.

"These rainfall amounts may cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides, especially over the higher terrain of northeastern Mexico," the center said.

It warned a storm surge of two to four feet (up to 1.2 meters) was also possible.

Hermine's eye was 210 kilometers (130 miles) southeast of La Pesca, Mexico and 325 kilometers (205 miles) southeast of Brownsville, Texas and the storm was moving north at 20 kilometers (13 miles) an hour.

The center of Hermine is expected to approach the coast of northeastern Mexico or extreme southern Texas in the warning area early this morning."

Toll from deadly Guatemala landslides rises to 44

SOLOLA, Guatemala (AFP) - The death toll from multiple landslides in Guatemala rose to 44, officials said yesterday as rescuers took advantage of a brief window of good weather to search for victims and survivors.

At least 16 people were still missing after a series of landslides, mudslides and wall collapses that followed weeks of heavy rain in the impoverished and mountainous Central American nation, emergency officials said.

There are "43,043 people at risk, 11,495 have been evacuated, 9,160 are in shelters and 56 people have been injured," a statement from Guatemala's National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (Conared) said.

"It's a national tragedy," President Alvaro Colom said as he visited a site where up to 40 people were thought to have been buried alive in a mudslide.

"This weekend alone we have seen damage comparable to what we experienced with Agatha," he added, referring to a tropical storm in May that killed 165 Guatemalans and left thousands homeless.

After a pause overnight as new rains rolled in, rescue crews resumed work at 6:00 am local time, said Cesar Aguirre, a spokesman for emergency services.

"We hope that the rains let up a bit, and allow us to work," he told AFP.

The rescue effort has been hampered by continuing bad

weather associated with the region's rainy season, with operations halting during downpours to ensure workers are not at risk from new landslides.

"It is a very painful thing that poor people end up being the ones hurt by natural disasters," Colom added, urging people only to use the main highway if they had no other option "because there are landslides all over the place."

Conared chief Alejandro Maldonado said that the torrential rains had flooded many homes and left infrastructure including key roads unusable.

Conared said the torrential downpours had caused almost 200 landslides, wall collapses and mudslides across the country

The spiral of death

By: Roland W. Peterson



Boa eating a Buladeifi

Photo: Greg Peterson

*In the day I can't
rest my tired wings
At night I am restless
aware that the boa is
lurking*

*All my feathered companions
have encountered the ugly boa*

*Now I am resting on a limb
Suddenly the boa strikes
I struggle in vane
There is a terrible pain*

*The boa fastens its grip
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Iran stoning woman's son fears execution after Ramadan

PARIS (AFP) — The son of an Iranian woman sentenced to be stoned to death for adultery said Monday that he fears she will be executed shortly after this week's end to the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani's 22-year-old son Sajjad Mohammadi Ashtiani was speaking by telephone to a news conference organised in Paris by the French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy.

"Ramadan is coming to an end and, according to Islamic law, executions can resume," the young man warned. The Islamic calendar varies a little around the world, but Ramadan is due to come to an end everywhere this week.

Sajjad said he had had no contact with his 43-year-old mother since her August 11 televised "confession", which

her lawyers believe was coerced from her by Iranian authorities.

"Weekly visits have been halted. We heard that she had received 99 lashes in prison," the young Iranian said, speaking to Levy and assembled reporters in Persian through a French translator.

Mohammadi-Ashtiani was sentenced to death for adultery and has since also received a 10-year jail term for participating in her husband's murder.

Her case has generated a worldwide uproar, with international governments and human rights bodies denouncing stonings as barbaric, and some questioning whether she received a fair trial.

Sakineh's son expressed confidence that international pressure would help and called for the support of Turkey and Brazil, who have friendly relations with Iran.

France to strip nationality for killing police: Sarkozy



PARIS, France (AFP) - President Nicolas Sarkozy said Monday he wants to strip French nationality from immigrants if they kill or try to kill police or public officials, as part of a controversial law and order drive.

Defying both an international outcry over his targeting of foreigners and claims he is pandering to far-right voters, Sarkozy expressed determination to push ahead with a tough crackdown on foreign-born criminals.

The statement from the president's office said the government would draft a

law "as soon as possible" and hoped to have it in force by the end of the year.

It would allow judges "to withdraw French nationality, within 10 years of the granting of French nationality, to those who deliberately endanger the life of a person invested with public authority, particularly a police officer."

The government will also seek legislation "to facilitate the deportation of foreigners in irregular situations including, in some circumstances, citizens of the European Union."

This new rule would kick in when immigrants "threaten

public order, have no durable means of supporting themselves or abuse the right of free movement."

The statement did not explicitly target any single minority, but it comes after Sarkozy ordered police to round-up hundreds of Romanian and Bulgarian Roma Gypsies and expel them back to their homelands.

Tens of thousands protested in cities across France on Saturday against the targeting of Roma and smaller demonstrations also took place in other European capitals.

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Ingrid Does
Manager

Rosalinda Maduro
Chandette Richardson
Editors

Milton Jones
Project Coordinator & Graphic Designer

Rosalie Klein
Reporter / Photographer

Yvonne Kromhout
P.R., Sales & Marketing

Yanis Garcia
Sales

News Provider:
AFP-Agence France Presse

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website:
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

NATO eyes 2,000 extra troops for Afghanistan

BRUSSELS (AFP) - US General David Petraeus, the commander of the war in Afghanistan, has requested 2,000 extra troops to bolster a crucial mission to train Afghan security forces, a NATO official said Monday.

NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who will meet Obama at the White House today, said last week he hoped that foreign troops could begin to gradually hand security responsibilities to Afghan forces next year.

The secretary general said the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has trained more than 140,000 Afghan security forces so far, and the number would more than double by October 2011.

The international community has endorsed plans by the Afghan government to take responsibility for security by 2014.

Petraeus's request for 2,000 more troops comes ahead of a NATO summit in Lisbon on November 19-20 during which the Afghan campaign will feature prominently.

"I hope that the NATO summit in November will decide that the process of progressive transfer of responsibilities to Afghans begins in 2011," Rasmussen said.

But Rasmussen stressed that NATO would stay on the ground as long as Afghan forces are not ready to fight on their own.



A jockey rides on ostrich during races in the 1st Ukrainian Ostriches Festival some 50 km from Kiev which took place last weekend. The farming of ostriches is getting popular among Ukrainian farmers. AFP PHOTO



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Meeting Police and AH&SF on: The effects of the Night Life in the High Rise Area

ORANJESTAD -- On Wednesday, September 1, 2010, at the Police Headquarters in Santa Cruz, an interesting meeting took place between the Chief of Police A. Richardson, Commissioner T. Hassell, several top Police officers and the Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation (AH&SF) represented by Roland W. Peterson and Dario Soemers.

The main topic was the report made by the two Dutch students about the activity and hotspots around the high rise hotels.

As introduction Police psychologist Drs. Errol Zedeba, gave a brief history about the Police involvement with the AH&SF. After this presentation, Soemers gave a brief introduction about the history of the AH&SF and the highlights of the report on the Study on the effects of the Night Life in the High Rise Area.

After this, a discussion about the report an exchange of ideas between the Police Upper Staff Members and the AH&SF members took place.

Mr. Peterson also brought, the following observations forward:

- The relationship between the Police and the AH&SF is a unique achieve-

ment between the public and private sector. An achievement that many countries are interested in.

- It seems to be a fact that many stakeholders are complaining about the lack of visibility of the Visibility Team and police in the Tourist and Commercial Areas

- The involvement of the police needs more weight in important decisions. Often the police is not involved in the realization of certain projects, and then, when these projects are accomplished and problems arise, the police is the one to take care of the problem.

- The police must invest more time to know the stakeholders and areas of the commercial and touristic areas.

- Also, meetings between the government (Minister, D.O.W.) Police, AH&SF and AHATA should take place on a regular basis to analyze and improve on existing and future developments in these areas.

- And last but not least there must always be contact with the office of the Attorney General/Public Prosecutor so that they are aware of the situations with which these entities are confronted day in day out, year in year out.

The weekly Bon Bini Festival is tonight!

ORANJESTAD -- The weekly Bon Bini festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminstraat. The festival is for tourists and locals to mix and mingle and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture

This weeks the festival will feature the traditional Aruban Caha d'Orgel. "Ban Baile," musical group; "Ola Tropical," Dance groups: "Nos Fofoti," and "Aruba Dance Formation," solo singer: "Jose David" and steel band: "New Generation." MC is Juby Naar

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and handicraft on sale.

Arubus has regularly scheduled bus transport from all hotel areas to Oranjestad's central terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is US\$2.30.

Come, meet the islands, absorb some local color and culture, and get a taste of our Dushi Aruba.

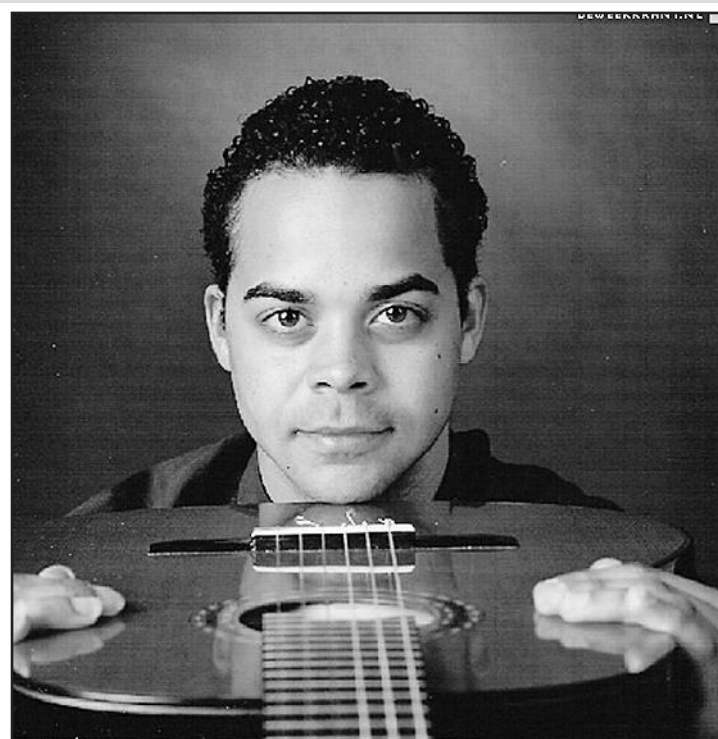
The festival is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Entrance is 5 Aruban florins or US\$3.

Concert of the talented duo Titre-Saeijs in 'Cas di Cultura'

ORANJESTAD -- The young and talented Aruban guitarist, Marlon Titre will be giving a concert together with violinist Frederieke Saeijs on Wednesday, September the 15th, in the "Cas di Cultura." The concert will start at 8:00 p.m.

In 2005 Marlon Titre and Frederieke Saeijs both won a first prize in one of the most prestigious contests for their instruments. Marlon Titre has won the "Michele Pitaluga" contest in guitar in Italy, while Frederieke Saeijs has won the "Long-Thibaud" contest for the violin in Paris. From then on they are both requested very much for concerts and festivals around the world.

Marlon Titre (Aruba, 1982), who studied Guitar and composition/arrangement, is considered one of the most outstanding guitarist and composer of his generation. In May 2010, in Holland, he gave a tribute together with the well-known Curacaoan pianist Randall Corsen to another great Antillean guitarist, Julian Coco for his 86th birthday. Currently Marlon Titre is doing investigations at the department of Advanced Studies & Research in Music at the Orpheus Insti-



Marlon Titre

tute in Gent, Belgium and also at the University of Leiden at the Docaries. Since 2010 he is a guitar teacher at the Tilburg Conservatory.

Frederieke Saeijs is one a young violinist of Holland with very high distinction. She has studied at the "Koninklijke Conservatorium" in The Hague. Thereafter she continued her studies at the Indiana

University, The Jacob School of Music in the U.S.A. Actually she is violin teacher at the "Koninklijk Conservatorium" in The Hague.

This talented duo will present a program of "Histoire du Tango" in which they will join their talents with passionate music of Latin American composers like Manuel Falla, Agustin Barrios and the world Famous Astor Piazzola.

Van der Sloot allegedly admits extortion

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (UPI) -- The man suspected in the disappearance of a U.S. teen allegedly said he extorted money from her family, De Telegraaf newspaper says.

Joran van der Sloot allegedly said he took money from the family of Natalee Holloway in exchange for information about the location of her remains, Radio Netherlands said yesterday. He is also charged in the killing of another woman.

Holloway disappeared on the Caribbean island of Aruba in 2005, and van der Sloot allegedly admitted he extorted money from her family in an interview with a reporter from

the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf, Radio Netherlands said.

U.S. authorities have filed an extradition request with the Peruvian government, where van der Sloot is in custody in the Flores killing.

He received \$25,000 of the \$250,000 he demanded from the missing girl's family. He claimed he and his father, now deceased, buried her body under the foundation of a home; her body has never been recovered.

In the interview, van der Sloot is quoted as saying he demanded the money because "her parents have been pestering me for five years now."

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Colombian named world's smallest man



Nino holds the Guinness World Record Book 2011 in which he is featured.

BOGOTA, Colombia -- Edward Nino Hernandez is in many ways a typical 24-year-old Colombian male. He loves to dance reggaeton, dreams of owning a fast car and wants to see the world.

Top on his list of people he would like to meet are Jackie Chan, Sylvester Stallone and former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe.

What sets Nino apart is his size. He is slightly taller than a piece of carry-on luggage and weighs just 22lbs (10kgs).



And he has just been officially certified as the world's shortest living man by Guinness World Records, measuring 27ins.

Nino, who works part time as a dancer, said: 'I feel happy because I'm unique.'

He also reveals he has a girlfriend - an 18-year-old who is just under 5ft.

Although he has cataracts in both of his eyes that blur his vision and, require urgent surgery that the family can't afford, the budding actor has won a part in a new film, playing a drug thief.

Nino's mother, Noemi Hernandez, said of her oldest of five children: 'He hasn't grown since he was two years old.'

She added that doctors never could explain why Nino is so small.

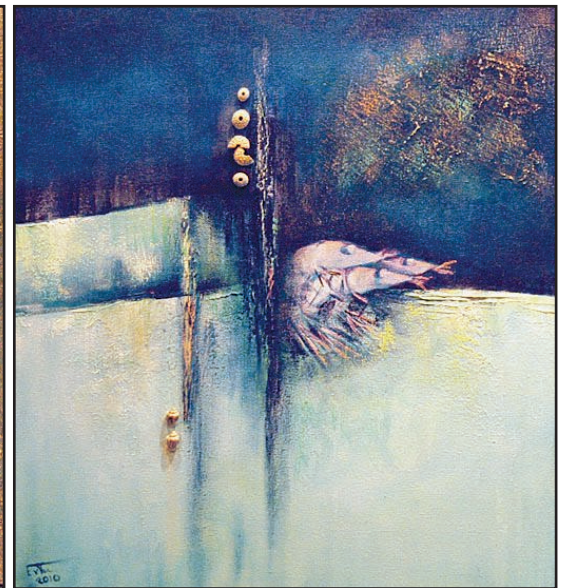
Nino is mentally sharp and laughs easily though it's sometimes hard to understand his high-pitched speech and his stubby fingers make writing difficult.

He had to repeat several years of school before dropping out aged about 13.

Westin Gallery features a retrospect of renowned island artists Eefje van der Straten



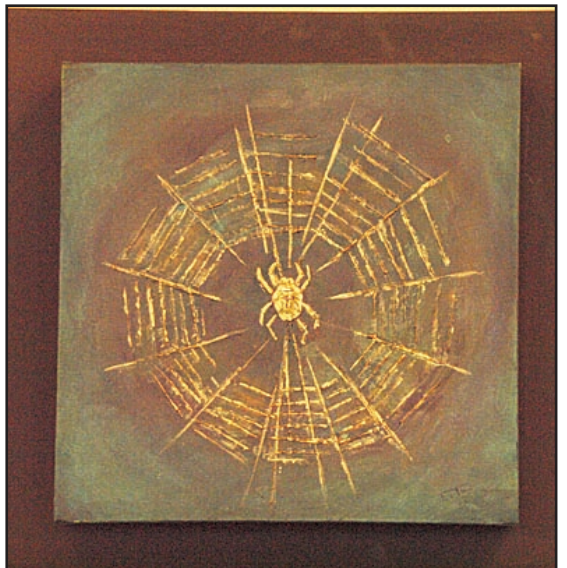
Inspired by ancient Aruban indian cave paintings



Sea impression



Thought circle



Stone Flowers

Sunday the Westin Gallery conducted a congenial "Koffie Morgan" in the Palm Beach resort to mark the opening of a retrospect of the diverse and imaginative works of Eefje van der Straten. Inspired by nature, the island environment, ancient antiquities and modern music, it is a varied collection demonstrating the various periods of this ever-evolving artist.

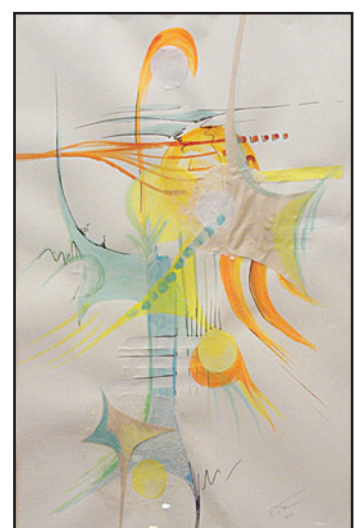
Eefje is justifiably well respected among the island community. She is continually stretching her talent and vision in new ways; she participates in every workshop offered by visiting artists to stimulate her creativity and expand her technique. This exposition is a fine example of the many phases through which she expressed her artistic vision.

"Stone Flowers" encompasses several works in which she interprets Aruba's various rock formations, "Sea Impressions" show a definitive "Blue Period," and her "Thought Circles" are very



Zen. Eefje has a great sense of color, composition and structure. Her works range from pleasantly pleasing to the eye to decidedly dramatic.

The present exhibit will be on display until November. The gallery is located off the main lobby of the Westin Aruba Resort and is open 24/7. A representative of the gallery is on hand on Wednesday and Friday afternoons to respond to inquiries, and they can be contacted by calling 587-0004 or calling 732-7168.





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Press members are introduced to Starbucks II at Renaissance Mall



Nine months after the introduction of Starbucks Coffee on Aruba in the Renaissance Marketplace, last week the famous franchise opened another outlet, this time in the Renaissance Mall, but with a different concept. This outlet with furniture made of recycled wood gives the client a cozy yet free feeling.

In commemoration of National Press Day, management of Renaissance Resort invited local press members, not only for the opening but



also to taste and savor the different products Starbucks has to offer.

Press members have a very hard task; they work 24/7 to inform the community what is happening on the island and around the world, whether it is good or bad news.

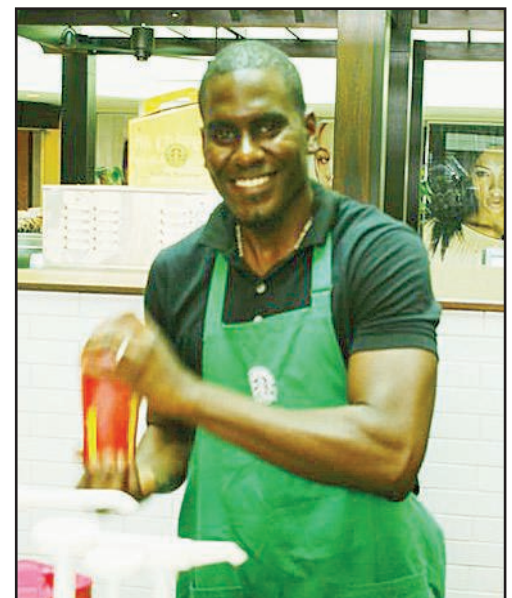
"This is the part of your job that we acknowledge today, your day," said Renaissance Resort executive Zugheila Lindeborg to all press members present.



Press members enjoyed different coffee from the menu

accompanied by little bites, in an entertaining ambiance especially set up for them. Whether it is a hot coffee or cold coffee, the famous Frappuccino - which is a hit on Aruba, or special flavored teas, Starbucks has it.

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Science/Tech

How Are Hurricanes Named?

While the monikers of current hurricanes - including Earl and Fiona - may seem simple, the system of naming hurricanes has a long and complicated history.

From using latitude-longitude location points to military code words, the road to perfecting a hurricane-naming system has been bumpy, and it's still evolving.

A jumble of names

Originally, hurricanes were given the names of saints who were honored on the day they occurred, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For example, Hurricane Santa Ana of 1825 hit on July 26, the day dedicated to Saint Anne.

If two hurricanes struck on the same day, the newer tempest had a suffix tacked on to its name. For example, Hurricane San Felipe struck Puerto Rico on Sept. 13, 1876, and another storm hit the area on Sept. 13, 1928. The latter storm was named Hurricane San Felipe II.

Later, latitude-longitude positions were used in the naming process. However,

this cumbersome identification method was confusing during radio communication and more subject to error, according to NOAA. The United States nixed it in 1951 in favor of a naming system based on the phonetic alphabet (including names such as Able, Baker and Charlie) developed by the military.

This system also proved to be too confusing, so in 1953, weather forecasters began using names assigned by NOAA's National Hurricane Center. Initially, all hurricane names were female, with the first "girl" hurricane named Maria, after the heroine of the 1941 novel "Storm" by George Rippey Stewart, according to NOAA.

"In a very wise move, men's names were introduced in 1979, and are now rotated with women's names," Dennis Feltgen, a spokesperson for the National Hurricane Center, told Life's Little Mysteries.

How are names picked?

Now, hurricane names are determined by the World Meteorological Organization headquartered in Geneva. The

WMO is in charge of updating the six weather regions of the world (the United States is in region four, which consists of North America, Central America and the Caribbean).

For Atlantic tropical storms, the National Hurricane Center created six lists of hurricane names that are maintained and updated by the WMO through an international voting committee. The lists contain French, Spanish, Dutch and English names because "hurricanes affect other nations and are tracked by the public and weather services of many countries," according to NOAA.

The six lists are kept in constant rotation. For example, the 2010 name list will be used again in 2016.

While names of hurricanes previously included names from A to Z (for example, hurricane names from 1958 included Udele, Virgy, Wilna, Xrae, Yurith and Zorna), current lists exclude Q, U, X, Y and Z because there are not enough names starting with these letters to include them, Feltgen said.

The lists do change, how-

ever. If a storm is especially devastating, such as 2005's Katrina, a vote is taken by the WMO to determine whether it would be inappropriate to use the name again. If a name is taken off the list, another name that shares its first letter is selected and voted to replace it, Feltgen said.

The names on the six lists can be pretty unique. For example, names planned for

2010 hurricanes include Gaston, Otto, Shary and Virginie.

A storm earns its hurricane handle once it has been identified to have a counterclockwise circulation and wind speeds of 39 mph (63 kph) or greater. It is then assigned the next name alphabetically in line from the year's current name list by the Tropical Prediction Center in Miami.

E.U. Could Investigate Chinese Subsidies to Modem Makers

The European Commission is considering opening a second enquiry to investigate if China is illegally subsidizing tech companies that produce wireless modems.

The move follows a complaint by Belgium modem-maker Option. Option is the E.U.'s only producer of 3G modems and filed a separate complaint about modem dumping by China earlier this year.

Option's new complaint alleges that China's main modem manufacturers, ZTE

and Huawei, which hold 90 percent of the market for 3G data cards and USB modems, are being unfairly subsidized by the Chinese government and government-owned banks.

Huawei in particular has a line of credit far exceeding what could be considered normal, giving the company an unfair advantage, said Option spokesman Jan Pote. The company believes that "the selling practices of these Chinese competitors is and has been illegal under E.U. law".

Keep Health in Mind When Planning School Day Menus

As parents prepare their children's school menus, they need to remember that healthy meals and snacks are essential for learning.

"Parents can make the school day easier for their children by providing nutritious and yummy breakfasts, lunches and snacks that promote optimal learning. Everyone is in a rush in the morning, but it only takes a few minutes on Sunday to plan healthy meals to fuel your child's week," Karin Richards, director of the Exercise Science and Wellness Management program, and director of Health Sciences at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, said in a university news release.

Richards offered the following advice for parents as they plan breakfast, lunch and snacks for their school-age children:


Include at least three types of foods into each meal, making sure to include some type of protein and complex carbohydrates, such as whole wheat bagels or pasta. The complex carbohydrates will provide energy while the protein will satisfy your child's appetite for a longer period of time.

Bring your child to the market with you and let him or her choose one fruit or vegetable each week. Encourage kids to try new and interesting produce such as kiwi, papaya and edamame.


Monitor portion size. Three to four ounces of meat (about the size of your palm) is plenty. Adjust the amount based on your child's age and activity level.

Add more vegetables into your child's diet, even if you have to sneak them in. For example, try zucchini bread, veggies with low-fat dip, or shred carrots into tomato sauce and soups.

For beverages, suggest low-fat milk or water. If your child prefers juice, make sure it's 100 percent juice.




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Hormone in Hair May Reveal Heart Risk

While financial woes, on-the-job-stress, and relationship troubles build up over time and may cause ongoing stress, there was no direct evidence supporting the link between such chronic stress and heart disease -- until now. New research shows that increased levels of the stress hormone cortisol in the hair shaft -- a marker for chronic stress --

raise the risk of heart attack.

Levels of cortisol have previously been measured in blood, urine, and saliva, but these measurements only provide a snapshot of stress at the moment. Hair cortisol, however, can provide a longer-term assessment of stress levels. Hair grows about 1 centimeter a month, so a 3-centimeter hair sample, for

example, is a marker for stress over three months.

In the new study, hair cortisol levels were actually a more important predictor of heart attack risk than other known heart disease risk factors such as high blood pressure, smoking, and high cholesterol.

"We felt that stress was a minor factor compared to the

other known risk factors for heart disease, but we didn't think it would be the strongest of them all," says study researcher Stan VanUum, MD, PhD, an associate professor of medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada.

Our body's fight-and-flight response is designed to help

us out when we are in peril. Sudden spikes of cortisol can do just that, but when our increase of cortisol is chronic, it can have negative effects on our health.

"Over the long term, elevated cortisol can cause increases in blood pressure, blood sugar, body fat, and blood clotting -- all of which are known risk factors for heart attack," says VanUum.

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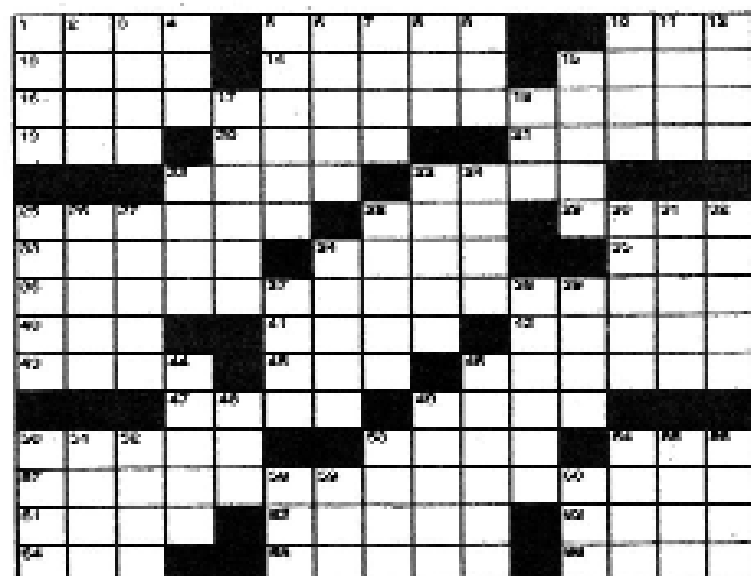
1. December decoration
5. Sprayed detector
10. Scrooge's word
13. Oriental staple
14. Sidestep
15. December season
18. Scrooge's story: 8 wds.
19. Former Chinese leader
20. Kind of tide
21. Made a boo-boo
22. Finished
23. Fish apt.: hyph.
25. Thwarted
28. Mascot
29. Irish playwright
33. TV's "Green ____"

34. Amphibian
35. Eggs
38. Henry van Dyke story: 4 wds.
40. Sea bird
41. Russian river
42. Happening
43. Espico
45. Short poem
46. Summits
47. Turnpike payment
49. Shower
50. Fall bloomer
53. So long, in Solov hyph.
54. Surprised exclamation
57. December leucum: 8 wds.

DOWN

1. Mini car
2. Costa ____
3. Repeat
4. Always, partially
5. Plant again
6. Wedding place
7. Deep-six
8. Oklahoma town
9. Thing, in law
10. American duelist
61. Merit
62. High nest
63. Turkish coin
64. Mature
65. Male singer
66. First NANA target

11. Century plant
12. Maternal
15. Tall stories
17. Hay stacks
18. Coachbuilder's spring
22. Toast spread
23. Make a early noise
24. "The Gift of the ____"
25. Goddesses of destiny
26. Earthy pigment
27. Actress Papen
28. Puny
30. Hardiness
31. ____ yards
32. Desires
34. Wild
37. Ship's body
38. Magazine feature
39. Level
44. Forbidding
46. Author Wells
48. Spanish gold
49. Proportion
50. Floating
51. Game animal
52. Biblical weed
53. Galt's cousin
54. Buckeye State
55. Leander's love
56. Arabian sultanate
58. Obsess
59. Buzzed
60. Rhade river



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SOLUTION

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4	9	5	8	6	1	2	9	7
2	8	9	2	5	6	7	1	6
8	6	2	9	1	7	6	2	9
5	9	1	6	2	4	5	7	8
6	7	2	9	8	8	4	9	1
2	1	7	4	9	6	5	8	3
8	6	9	1	8	2	9	4	7
9	4	8	5	7	1	6	2	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
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 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Medvedev hints at end to Russia grain export ban

MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) - President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said Russia's ban on grain exports would be lifted once it had worked out how much it has harvested, in an apparent contradiction of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Putin said last week Russia would not lift a ban on grain exports before next year's harvest, extending the major world producer's embargo until at least mid-2011.

But on a visit to the south-

western city of Voronezh, one of Russia's main grain producing regions, Medvedev said: "As for the embargo on grain, it is a forced but temporary measure."

As soon as we know how much we have harvested any kind of embargo will be lifted. Do not doubt this."

A record drought has destroyed a quarter of Russia's harvest and Putin signed a decree early last month banning grain exports from August 15 to December 31.

The export ban is aimed at keeping the domestic market well supplied with grain to prevent sharp rises in food prices with Russia's leaders nervous of social unrest and keen to avoid any discontent ahead of elections due in 2012.

The export ban from such a key global player stung world markets, sending wheat prices to two-year highs and sparking worries of a crisis in global food supplies.

EU: Bank levies for bank problems, not hard-up governments

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) - Levies on banks across Europe should be designed to avoid costly bills for ordinary taxpayers if debts go bad again in future, and not to prop up short-changed governments, the EU said yesterday.

The drive to force banks to pay a percentage of their income into sector-specific rainy-day funds puts Brussels policymakers on a direct collision course with the British government.

London has already announced that it will levy banks from January next year, but with the proceeds going into general government revenue which can be used to help offset massive cuts in health, education and other services provision amid the fallout from recession.

Plans produced by European Union financial services commissioner Michel Barnier's department, which will be examined by finance ministers from the 27 member states in Brussels today, maintain it is "urgent" and "critical" that the bloc adopts "a coordi-

nated approach" to such taxes.

Without that, the ability of member states to act in a way that "ensures prompt action in the event of major banking failures, protects the broader financial system and minimises costs to public finances, might be compromised," it concludes.

"Directing the proceeds of levies to the general budget, on the other hand, carries a risk that... could potentially handicap authorities' ability to coordinate intervention in a cross-border case," it underlined, warning that "the risk of significant distortions will increase."

A British government official earlier maintained that the proceeds of its bank levy would be used entirely at its own discretion, reiterating a fiercely independent line on all fiscal disputes and concerns that taxes raised in London or Edinburgh financial centers could be redirected towards eurozone partners.

Hopes of a deal that would see all 27 EU nations apply similar levies are further advanced than those for a tax on

financial transactions, which diplomats say is already facing an avalanche of difficulties.

Sweden introduced a new 0.036 percent levy on banks' final balance sheets in October last year, while Britain, France and Germany each announced plans for such levies in June with Hungary soon following suit.

However, Brussels is increasingly concerned that "only Germany and Sweden envisage that the money raised should be used to constitute dedicated funds," according to the report seen by AFP.

Barnier's preferences, first trailed in May, were to have seen the proceeds of the tax used to make bridging loans to financial institutions deemed to be viable, help banks get rid of bad assets and offer legal and administrative help to those that have to close down.

The commission calculates that public financial support given to the EU banking sector during and since the financial crisis amounts to some 16.5 percent of EU economic output.

European markets show modest gains, dollar edges higher

LONDON, England (AFP) - European stock markets extended a rally yesterday and the dollar edged higher, but with Wall Street closed for the Labor Day public holiday gains were limited in sluggish trading.

European and US markets surged on Friday after the US Labor Department reported that far fewer US jobs had been lost in August than had been feared, prompting hopes the US economy could avoid another sharp downturn.

In London the FTSE 100 index added 0.20 percent to close at 5,439.19 points while in Paris the CAC 40 rose 0.34 percent to 3,684.73. The Frankfurt DAX gained 0.33 percent to end the day at 6,155.04 points.

Elsewhere there were gains of 0.22 percent in Madrid, 0.10 percent in Milan, 0.36 percent in Amsterdam and 0.27 percent on the Swiss Market Index.

On the currency market the dollar dipped in early trade as the strong US employment data encouraged investors to take on riskier assets such as the single European currency, the euro.

But the US unit reversed the trend in afternoon deals, when the euro had slipped to

1.2883 dollars from 1.2895 late Friday in New York.

The dollar was meanwhile at 84.21 yen after 84.32 on Friday.

Currency traders were showing caution as they awaited key monetary policy decisions from central banks on Japan today, Canada tomorrow and Britain on Thursday.

The pound sterling weakened against the dollar, with the market anxious to know if the Bank of England on Thursday will take further measures to shore up the British economy.

Bank policymakers at their August meeting discussed an extension to the BoE's quantitative easing policy, whereby it creates money by purchasing bonds from commercial institutions, but decided against the move despite tight credit conditions.

In Paris Dexia bank fell 2.27 percent and media and technology group Lagardere lost 1.51 percent. Both companies will be removed from the CAC 40 and transferred to a smaller exchange on September 20.

In Frankfurt energy companies were the day's big winners on news that the German government had approved a pro-

posal to postpone Germany's exit from nuclear power.

Calculations in the German media suggest that the last nuclear plant will not be switched off until 2040, and critics say that operators may get away with keeping some running for even longer than that.

Yesterday, RWE rose 1.84 percent and E.ON 1.79 percent.

Steel maker ThyssenKrupp added 0.95 percent on news that it would raise its price for flat steel starting October 1.

In London telecommunications operator Cable and Wireless fell victim to profit taking and lost 0.28 percent after having gained some ground on reports of a possible takeover bid from Singapore Telecommunications.

British energy group Centrica, supported by the German nuclear power decision, added 1.19 percent.

In earlier Asian trade, Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei index closed 2.05 percent higher, tracking Friday's rally on Wall Street following the jobs data.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index closed up 1.83 percent and Shanghai hit a near four-month high after a gain of 1.54 percent.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	O	H	O	A	L	G	A	D	E	B	I	T
I	G	O	R	L	E	O	N	E	L	U	D	E
N	E	G	A	T	I	V	E	S	L	A	Y	E
G	E	T	T	I	I	S	E	R	E	S	A	M
H	E	R	E	T	R	I	P	A	L	S		
H	U	E	E	T	C	H	D	R	O	P		
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T	A	H	O	E	L	O	N	E	S	K	I	N
E	S	T	E	R	E	G	E	R	Y	E	A	S

Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



R-I, Monica and Amarilis with their fellow colleagues

When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a goldmine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike. What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes

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might want to try something from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp,



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Food fight breaks out as locavores defend their turf



WASHINGTON (AFP) — A new food fight has stirred up the locavore movement, which promotes eating of local products, after fresh challenges to the assumption that the practice promotes environmental sustainability.

The locavore movement, which has been gaining steam rapidly since emerging in California in 2005, is now boiling over following a commentary last month suggesting that the "math" underpinning the practice is flawed.

Author and journalist Stephen Budiansky stirred up the pot with a piece appearing in the New York Times arguing that locavores are mistaken on the notion that local food is better for energy conservation and the environment.

"Words like 'sustainability' and 'food-miles' are thrown around without any clear understanding of the larger picture of energy and land use," Budiansky wrote.

Budiansky has his own vegetable garden, but argues that on a commercial scale, large farms are far more energy-effi-

cient than small ones and that transportation energy costs are often overstated by local food advocates.

"It takes about a tablespoon of diesel fuel to move one pound of freight 3,000 miles by rail," says Budiansky, who calls the transportation fuel costs "a negligible amount in the overall picture."

"The real energy hog, it turns out, is not industrial agriculture at all, but you and me. Home preparation and storage account for 32 percent of all energy use in our food system, the largest component by far," he said

in the commentary titled "Math Lessons for Locavores."

Budiansky added that "eating food from a long way off is often the single best thing you can do for the environment, as counterintuitive as that sounds."

He said that "the relative pittance of energy we expend on 'industrial' agriculture... pays huge environmental dividends which the organic and local gurus always ignore."

The comments heated up the debate about the locavore movement, which has been gaining ground among groceries, restaurants and consumers in the United States and elsewhere, based on a philosophy of using more foods produced closer to home.

Elanor Starmer of the watchdog group Food & Water Watch says Budiansky misses the point, and that locavores want more diversity in the facing of growing concentration of the food chain in the hands of multinational companies.

"When I buy local food, energy use is not the driving rationale (no pun intended),"

Starmer says in a blog posting.

"I buy from a variety of local farms when at all possible because if I don't, I will probably be eating from a stream of food that has passed through the hands of a tiny number of massive companies."

Kerry Trueman, cofounder of the website EatingLiberally, points out that "energy efficiency is only one small part of the equation when you add up the reasons to buy local."

She said factors include flavor and nutrition, support for ecological farming practices, avoidance of pesticides and more humane treatment of livestock and workers.

Dave Love of the Johns Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future, was incensed by Budiansky's argument.

"It is difficult to be in favor of a farming approach that relies upon mono-cropping using genetically modified seeds and synthetic fertilizers," he said.

"Why pick on locavores? Because when they seek local food, they may also be seeking to buy organically grown or raised foods, from small to mid-sized farms, which can impact entrenched agribusiness interests."

But James McWilliams, a fellow in the Agrarian Studies Program at Yale University, said Budiansky echoes his own views that the locavore movement relies on flawed logic.

"The recognized benefits of a local foodshed are numerous, but -- while small might be beautiful -- small is also expensive and, in turn, prone to exclusivity," says McWilliams, author of "Just Food: Where Locavores Get It Wrong and How We Can Truly Eat Responsibly."

Jennifer Wilkins, a faculty member at the Cornell University College of Human Ecology, says the strict economic and environmental calculations can be complex but that diversity in the food supply "tends to increase stability and resilience."

She said that recalls and accidents in the food supply can highlight problems when a small number of producers dominate.

"When something goes wrong in a highly concentrated and specialized system, as we are reminded by the recent recall of shell eggs, the consequences and costs related to public health, economic loss, food waste, and consumer confidence are on a much more spectacular scale and much more widespread," she said.

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Avatar director vows to aid Amazon tribe



James Cameron talks to a Xingu leader in Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (AFP) — Film director James Cameron said he will return to Brazil this year to make a 3D film on indigenous people of the Amazon who oppose construction of a huge dam for fear it could flood tribal lands.

"I want to return to meet some of the leaders of the Xikrin-Kayapo tribe who invited me," the Canadian director said in an interview published in the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper.

"I want to take a 3D camera to film how they live, their culture," said Cameron, whose blockbuster movie Avatar tells the story of the peaceful Na'Vi people who live in harmony with nature on the planet Pandora and wage a bloody fight against strip-miners from Earth.

The filmmaker has already come to the Amazon twice in a show of support for the indigenous tribe and to film a short piece on their resistance to the damming project on the Xingu River, which will be included on the "Avatar" DVD to be released around Christmas.

Speaking of the fight against the dam construction, Cameron said he "did a film

on the same topic," referring to Avatar, adding that when he was asked to help "the Brazilian Indians, who were desperate, I could not turn away."

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva gave the green light last week for the construction of the Belo Monte hydroelectric plant on the Xingu River, a southern tributary to the mighty Amazon. Work is set to begin on the project either late this year or early 2011.

Opponents of the dam project say it is not economically viable and would cause the displacement of 16,000 people because it would create a flood zone of 500 square kilometers along the banks of the Xingu.

The government says no indigenous land would be threatened

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Djokovic, Monfils advance to US Open quarter-finals



Monfils celebrates his victory

NEW YORK (AFP) - Serbian third seed Novak Djokovic advanced to a US Open quarter-final against revenge-minded Frenchman Gael Monfils on Monday by defeating US 19th seed Mardy Fish 6-3, 6-4, 6-1.

Djokovic, the 2008 Australian Open champion, will

seek a fourth consecutive US Open semi-final berth when he faces 17th seed Gael Monfils, who ousted countryman Richard Gasquet 6-4, 7-5, 7-5.

"I'm really happy with the way I played, definitely a lot of confidence," Djokovic said. "It's great to raise the

level as we go on in the tournament."

Monfils is 0-4 against Djokovic but pushed him to five sets in round one of the 2005 US Open, to three sets at the 2008 Beijing Olympic quarter-finals and into a third-set tie-breaker before dropping last year's Paris indoor final.

"I have revenge to take. He won against me at home," Monfils said. "This time I hope to win."

Djokovic was the 2007 US Open runner-up and lost in the semi-finals the past two years, all three defeats coming to 16-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer, a potential semi-final opponent again this year.

Swiss second seed Federer, seeking his sixth US Open title and seventh final in a row, was set to face Austrian 13th seed Jurgen Melzer in a night match at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Swedish fifth seed Robin Soderling also was to face 21st seed Albert Montanes of Spain in a later match.

Fish surrendered two early breaks to drop the first set and another in the fifth game of the second set, but responded in the next game by earning three break points, only to see Djokovic save them all and hold to 4-2.

Djokovic held twice more to claim the second set and broke Fish to open the third set, then again in the fifth game and seventh games to end matters after one hour and 50 minutes.

"Whenever I had a chance I used it," Djokovic said. "I was returning really well, making him play an extra shot, and I was serving well."

Monfils became the first Frenchman in the last eight on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts since Arnaud Clement in 2000.

The only prior Slam quarter-finals for Monfils were in 2008 semi-final and 2009 last-eight French Open runs, each ended by Federer.

"For me it's amazing to be in front of the American crowd in the quarters," Monfils said. "I feel really comfortable here, maybe (enough) to win here one day."

Monfils fired 14 aces and 40 winners to advance in two hours and 35 minutes.

"My plan was to try to break him physically and break him in the head," Monfils said. "I think I did pretty good."



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Maradona plans birthday bash in Naples



ROME (AFP) - Diego Maradona is planning a 50th birthday party in Naples next month, despite owing the tax man there 37 million euros.

The controversial former World Cup winner spent seven seasons at Napoli, heralding the greatest period in the club's history in which they won two Italian league titles.

And having been fired as Argentina coach following their disappointing World Cup campaign, Maradona now wants to return to his second home to have a fiesta.

"Neapolitans, I invite you to my birthday," he said in Monday's La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"In life I've had it all: a family I adore, a brilliant career and now I want for nothing, and certainly not money."

"My only desire is to return to Naples to once again embrace the town and the people who have never forgotten me."

Maradona wants to organise a high-profile friendly match to celebrate his birthday, with former team-mates Bruno Giordano and Brazilian Careca already apparently confirmed as taking part.

Napoli themselves have made no official comment but in June club president Aurelio De Laurentiis claimed he was "waiting for Diego".

However, were Maradona to return to Naples it's not clear how local authorities would react due to his mammoth tax bill, which includes 23.5 million euros in interest.

Police have already seized two watches and a pair of earrings from Maradona on his previous visits to Italy.

In 2006 they took two watches worth 11,000 euros and last year a pair of earrings he was relieved of were sold at auction for 25,000 euros.

Blind golfers get chance on Asian Tour

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Three blind golfers will test their skills this week against Asian Tour professionals during the inaugural Handa Singapore Classic in a drive to encourage more people with disabilities to tee-off.

Australian David Blyth, England's Neil Baxter and Yam Ting Woo of Malaysia will play a three-hole challenge, each paired with a professional who will be blind-folded.

The initiative is the brainchild of Japanese philanthropist and businessman Haruhisa Handa, whose Tokyo-based company International Sports Promotion Society (ISPS) is the main tournament sponsor.

"It is really important that everyone can enjoy the sport regardless of their age or ability," he said.

"Blind golfers are an inspiration to me and professional players alike. They understand the course in different ways and it's amazing to see them strike the ball so well."

"ISPS wants to encourage more juniors, seniors and people with disabilities to get involved with golf."

Australian Unho Park has been confirmed as one of the Asian Tour professionals to take the challenge.

The tournament proper features a line-up including Asian number one Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand at Singapore's Orchid Country Club from September 9-12.




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Courier eyes US Cup captaincy after McEnroe resigns



Jim Courier

NEW YORK (AFP) - Patrick McEnroe will step down as captain of the US Davis Cup team after next week's world group playoff tie at Colombia and retired US star Jim Courier has thrown his hat into the ring to replace him.

McEnroe, the longest tenured captain in US Davis Cup history, will guide the Americans in Bogota on September 17-19 before his resignation takes effect, ending a decade in charge of the team that won a record 32nd Cup title in 2007.

"It is with a heavy heart that I am resigning as Davis Cup captain, but it is a decision I felt was best for the team and myself right now," McEnroe said.

Courier, a two-time Australian Open and French Open champion, said he would be interested in replacing McEnroe. The 40-year-old former world number one was part of a 1990s golden age of US tennis with Pete

Sampras and Andre Agassi.

"Davis Cup means the world to me and at some point in my life I certainly hope to have that seat," said Courier, who helped the Americans win the 1992 Davis Cup and serves as a television commentator for US coverage of the Open.

"I'm definitely interested in the job so hopefully they will give me a call and we will chat about it."

McEnroe, who said he wants to spend more time working with the US Tennis Association (USTA) youth system in hopes of bolstering young American talent.

"Davis Cup is a significant time commitment and this decision will allow me to focus more energy on my family and to the USTA Player Development program," he said.

McEnroe has a 16-9 record in Cup ties, two shy of Tom Gorman's all-time US win mark, and the Davis Cup crown three years ago snapped a record-long title drought from 1995.

Andy Roddick, James Blake and siblings Bob and Mike Bryan played 10 ties in a row for the US squad under McEnroe's reign, a steady lineup that helped raise the profile of the event in America.

Old foes set up mouthwatering quarter-final



US Rudy Gay goes for a basket during a World Cup Championship eighth of finals basketball match Angola versus US in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Old rivals USA and Russia are set to meet again, both qualifying for the quarter finals of the world basketball championships on Monday.

USA did it easy, beating African champions Angola 121-66 while Russia were made to fight harder by a tenacious New Zealand side, prevailing 78-56.

If the task was not already monumental enough, injury to their top-scorer from group play Olimpio Cipriano further blighted any chance Angola had of upsetting USA.

Kevin Durant was on fire early for the Americans, clocking 12 points in the opening quarter as USA raced out to a 33-13 lead which was only to grow in the next quarter with USA

doing it easy at half-time, ahead 65-38.

Angola refused to give up after half-time but they simply had no answers for the far superior Americans.

American captain Chauncey Billups led by example for the Americans, finishing as his team's top-scorer with 19 points. Durant, Rudy Gay and Eric Gordon all chipped in with 17 points.

Krzyewski was just as glowing in his review of his own team, putting the result down to the great respect his team held for their opposition.

"Our guys played very well and unselfish because they had that respect for their opponent," said Krzyewski.

New Zealand began well against Russia, leading up the

first quarter but the physical style of defence employed by the Russians frustrated the New Zealanders, falling behind 31-27 at half-time.

With two of their leading players, Kirk Penney and Mika Vukona given their fourth personal fouls soon after half-time the situation became desperate for New Zealand who came to the point that there was little chance of recovery, down 51-40 with a quarter remaining in the game.

When Casey Frank was handed his fourth foul and Vukona fouling out with over seven minutes remaining, it was the final nail in the coffin for New Zealand who lost their way as Russia ran away with the game, winning 78-56.



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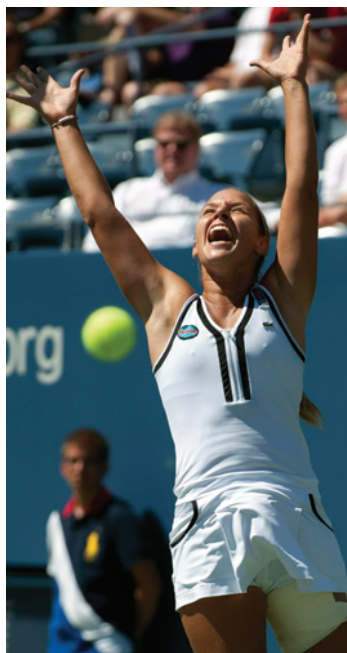
Cibulkova into last eight at US Open

NEW YORK (AFP) - Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia reached the quarter-finals of the US Open yesterday with a 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) win over Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia.

Unseeded Cibulkova will play either top seed Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark or former champion Maria Sharapova of Russia for a place in the semi-finals.

An upset winner here in 2004 when she was just 19-years old, Kuznetsova added the French crown to her Grand Slam collection last year, but this year she has struggled with injuries and inconsistent form.

She grabbed an early break against Cibulkova, at 45th the



lowest-ranking player left in the women's draw.

The second set followed a similar pattern with Kuznetsova taking an early break and a 3-1 lead, only for Cibulkova to get back on level terms at 3-3.

The Slovakian served for the match and had two match points on her serve at 5-3 ahead, but squandered them with two unforced errors to allow a lifeline for Kuznetsova.

That lasted as far as the tie-break, which Cibulkova dominated from the start winning it on her fourth match point to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final for just the second time after the 2009 French Open.



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Wozniacki ousts Sharapova at US Open

NEW YORK (AFP) - Top seed Caroline Wozniacki stayed on course for her maiden Grand Slam title on Monday with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Maria Sharapova in a pulsating fourth-round tie.

In the end, it was Sharapova's vulnerability on serve at key points that proved to be the main difference, handing vital breaks to the Dane through double faults in each set.

Wozniacki will play unseeded Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia for a place in the semi-finals.

"It was a tough match. She is a great player and I knew it

wasn't going to be easy," last year's runner-up said.

"I got a lot of experience from last year and that helped me a lot today."

The world number two went into the match having dropped just three games in her first three outings in New York, the least in a Grand Slam event by any woman since Mary Pierce at the 1994 French Open.

She had also won three out of the last four WTA tournaments in the build-up to New York and had enjoyed a 17-1 win-loss record since Wimbledon.



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